

Message Text

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COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

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DEPT PASS STR FOR MALMGREN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC, FR

SUBJECT: NEW PRICE BREAK ON COGNAC

REF: PARIS 13190

1. IN CONVERSATION TODAY WITH COLLIN AND DE PANNAFIEU OF DREE, LATTER PROPOSED FOLLOWING TEXT AS UNSIGNED AGREED MINUTE OF UNDERSTANDING FOR INTERIM ARRANGEMENT ON COGNAC. IN DISCUSSIONS IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TRANSLATION FOR "CONDITIONS COURANTES" WOULD BE "NORMAL CONDITIONS". UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION FOLLOWS: BASED ON CONVERSATION HELD 30 MAY, 1974 BETWEEN FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND US EMBASSY OFFICIALS AT PARIS CONCERNING DUTIES LEVIED ON COGNAC ENTERING THE US, THE TWO PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING: 1) THE USG SHALL INCREASE, BEGINNING JULY 1, 1974 FROM \$9 TO \$17 THE PRICE BREAK AT WHICH SUPPLEMENTARY DUTIES ON COGNAC IMPORTS ARE LEVIED. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS AN INTERIM MEASURE UNTIL DISCUSSIONS

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CAN BE HELD AIMING TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT

WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE ELIMINATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY DUTIES ON COGNAC. 2) THE USG IS WILLING TO RE-EXAMINE THE PRICE BREAK OF \$17 ON COGNAC NEXT DECEMBER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: A) THE INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF COGNAC IN FRANCE DURING THE COURSE OF 1974; B) TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM SUPPLEMENTAL DUTIES FOR THREE-STAR COGNAC SOLD UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS. END TRANSLATION.

FRENCH TEXT FOLLOWS: DES CONVERSATIONS ONT EU LIEU LE 30 MAI ENTRE LES SERVICES FRANCAIS ET L'AMBASSADE AMERICAINE A PARIS AU SUJET DU REGIME DE TAXATION DU COGNAC AUX ETATS-UNIS.

LES DEUX PARTIES ONT CONVENU DE L'ARRANGEMENT SUIVANT:

1. LE GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS PORTERA A PARTIR DU 1ER JUILLET DE \$9 A \$7 LE SEUIL D'APPLICATION DU DROIT DE DOUANE MAJORE POUR LES IMPORTATIONS DE COGNAC. CETTE MESURE EST PRISE A TITRE INTERIMAIRE, DANS L'ATTENTE DES DISCUSSIONS QUI POURRAIENT AVOIR LIEU EN VUE D'UN REGLEMENT D'ENSEMBLE PERMETTANT LA SUPPRESSION DU DROIT DE DOUANE MAJORE.

2. LE GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS EST DISPOSE A AVOIR DES CONVERSATIONS AVEC LES SERVICES FRANCAIS AU MOIS DE DECEMBRE PROCHAIN POUR REEXAMINER LE SEUIL DE \$17 A LA LUMIERE DES ELEMENTS SUIVANTS:

- AUGMENTATION DU PRIX DU COGNAC INTERVENUE EN FRANCE AU COURS DE L'ANNEE 1974;

- CONTINUER A EXEMPTER DU DROIT DE DOUANE MAJORE L'ENSEMBLE DES IMPORTATIONS DE COGNAC 3 ETOILES VENDUES DANS LES CONDITIONS COURANTES.

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